



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Colorado National Monument

1750 Rim Rock Drive  
Fruita, CO 81521

Superintendent's Compendium  
Of Designations, Closures, Permit Requirements  
and Other Restrictions Imposed Under  
Discretionary Authority.

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## February, 2014

Under the provisions of 16 USC, Section 3 and Title 36 CFR, Chapter 1, Parts 1-7, the following designations, closures, permit requirements and other restrictions imposed under the discretionary authority of the Superintendent are established for Colorado National Monument. Regulations listed in this compendium are a requirement in addition to those listed in Parts 1-7 of Title 36 unless otherwise noted.

This compendium is organized, with reference to the applicable sections, of Title 36 CFR. For example, the order entitled 1.5 closures and public use limits is addressed in section 1.5 Title 36 CFR.

I have determined that these actions are necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety, protection of environmental or scenic values, protection of natural and cultural resources, aid to scientific research, implementation of management responsibilities, equitable allocation and use of facilities, or the avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities.

Written determination, which explains the reasoning behind the Superintendent's use of discretionary authority, as required by Section 1.5(c), appears in this document identified by italicized print.

The words park and monument are interchangeable in this document and are referenced as a unit of the National Park System.

Visitors may obtain a copy of this compendium, additional information or permit applications by contacting: Superintendent, Colorado National Monument, 1750 Rim Rock Drive, Fruita, CO 81521.

The compendium is also available for viewing or printing on the park's public website:  
<http://www.nps.gov/colm>

Approved:

Lisa E. Eckert, Superintendent

2/10/14

Date

## Section 1.5: CLOSURES AND PUBLIC USE LIMITS

### (a)(1): Specific Site Closures

#### Roads

All monument roads are subject to temporary closures as indicated by signs or other means of notification during periods of adverse weather, natural disaster, emergency, other public safety concerns, or implementation of management responsibilities.

The following administrative roads are closed except for conducting official government business:

- Administrative road leading to the Saddlehorn maintenance area
- Administrative road leading to the Boneyard near the west hill
- Administrative road leading to the East Shop

Closures will be implemented by one or more of the following: signs, gates, barricades, other traffic control devices and/or as directed by authorized personnel.

Invited guests of employees residing in government housing and office space may access the administrative road in the housing area. The administrative road leading to the East Shop is open to those participating in First Amendment activities in the designated public assembly area, or overflow parking for the above-mentioned scenarios.

***Determination:*** *The temporary closure of park roads will enable the monument to reduce hazardous driving conditions to visitors and provide for a safe visit and safe working environment for employees during these events.*

*The closure on the administrative roads will help provide security at some key locations.*

#### Tunnels

Except for administrative activities, all road culverts, tunnels, and immediate approaches to tunnel portals are closed to pedestrians.

***Determination:*** *These closures are intended to discourage inappropriate or inherently unsafe behaviors that impede the orderly flow of traffic in particularly confining environments on Rim Rock Drive, increase the potential for conflicts between visitors, promote littering and vandalism and that present a potential safety hazard.*

*Road tunnels and associated locations may be temporarily closed or restricted due to legitimate reasons of safety and practicality. These may be for periods of road and tunnel structural repairs, natural rock slides, extreme weather conditions, performance of law enforcement actions, medical and fire or other emergencies or for other reasons necessary to manage or protect the natural and cultural resources of the park.*

#### Recreational Climbing Areas and Regulations

The following areas and exposures are closed to recreational rock climbing:

- Any exposure above any tunnel portal, American Indian rock-art site, the Balanced Rock in Fruita Canyon and the Mushroom Rock below the northwestern rim of Monument Mesa near the mouth of Monument Canyon.

- Any area which has the potential to create rock fall on Rim Rock Drive or overlooks.
- Any area which has the potential to disturb naturally occurring wildlife activity, such as, but not limited to, feeding, mating or nesting activities.
- Any climbing activity in an area which has the potential to damage an archeological site, historic structure, or paleontological resource is prohibited.

**Determination:** *These closures are intended to minimize the risk of injury or damage from falling rock or hardware to persons, vehicles and sensitive and irreplaceable archeological resources, and to prevent surface scarring or other disturbances of delicate or highly visible erosional features.*

*Climbing regulations ensure protection of resources, provides for quiet and tranquil visits for all visitors and enhances aesthetic appearance of all resources.*

*The intent of such closures which are designed to protect wildlife is to reduce external stresses that might interfere with the normal nesting behavior and reproductive success of endangered and other sensitive species. These include such animals as peregrine falcons and other raptors, desert bighorn sheep, naturally occurring predators and other potentially affected species.*

### **Specific Site After-Hours Closures**

Barring emergencies, or unless permitted through a Special Use Permit or other prior approval, the following areas shall be closed 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise:

- Devils Kitchen Picnic area (hours of availability may vary throughout the year)
- Saddlehorn Picnic area and parking lot
- White Rocks rock formation
- Cold Shivers Point

*The intent of such closures are intended to minimize after-hours incidents related to alcohol and drug use, which has steadily increased over the years as the surrounding area has grown in size. These areas have traditionally in the past been identified as popular meeting locations to conduct illegal activities.*

*White Rocks is close to an urban environment and contains many archaeological resources which need protection. After hour activity would pose as a threat to damaging these resources with human activity.*

*Vehicles may be left unattended, with prior approval, in these areas for legitimate purposes, such as backcountry camping, astronomical stargazing, night photography, etc.*

### **(a)(2): Conditions of/or Restrictions on Use**

#### **Commercial Diesel Vehicles**

Drivers of commercial passenger-carrying diesel-fueled motor vehicles are prohibited from idling their engines at overlooks and parking areas including the Visitor Center parking lot with the following exemptions: 1) after long uphill grades, engines may be idled for up to 15 minutes in order to cool; 2) engines may be left running to provide cooling or heating for disabled

passengers who have difficulty in disembarking.

**Determination:** *Diesel engines idling for a long period of time produce both noise and air pollution.*

### **Fuel Trucks**

The use of park roads for commercial transporting of fuel or hazardous materials is prohibited.

*The use of park roads for hauling fuel and hazardous materials is unsafe due to the nature of the narrow road corridor and traveling through tunnels. Frequently these oversized vehicles occupy more than one lane of traffic nearly causing impacts to other motor vehicles or natural resources. This will reduce the chance of hazardous spills impacting protected park natural, cultural and human resources.*

### **Recreational Water Activities**

The following areas are closed to swimming or other water disturbances:

- Any stream, drainage, or ephemeral pool which actively contains amphibians during their periods of mating, and egg and tadpole development stages.

### **Recreational Climbing**

The following restrictions will also apply to all recreational climbing activities within Colorado National Monument:

- No new permanent climbing hardware may be installed in any fixed location. If an existing bolt or other hardware item is unsafe, it may be replaced following consultation with park management. This will limit all climbing to existing routes or new routes not requiring placement of fixed anchors.
- The use of motorized power drills is prohibited. The use of power tools to facilitate the installation of rock climbing hardware or for any other purpose is prohibited.
- Climbing anchors and/or protection points may not be placed with the use of a hammer except to replace belay and rappel anchors and bolts on existing routes or for emergency self-rescue.
- The use of permanent anchor fixtures and hardware shall be installed or used for the protection of climbers on established climbing routes only, and only where such hardware devices now exist.
- Software (webbing, accessory cord, etc.) that is left in place shall match the rock surface in color.
- The installation or use of permanent anchor fixtures and hardware must be brown or black in color.
- Fixed ropes may not be left in place for more than 24 hours. Fixed ropes left in place longer than 24 hours shall be considered "abandoned property" and removed.
- The physical altering of rock faces such as chiseling new holds is prohibited.

- The intentional removal of lichen or plants from rock is prohibited.
- Camping on the summit of Independence Monument is prohibited.
- Chalk used for climbing must be of a color that blends in with the native rock.

**Determination:** *The power tool prohibition applies to all rotary drills, hammer drills, fastener-guns and related devices that rely upon batteries, explosive charges or chemical propellants for power. The intent of this prohibition is to conform with the general restrictions on the use of powered devices in areas of designated or proposed wilderness and, to the extent possible, to eliminate sources of unnatural sound that may disturb wildlife or intrude upon the quality of the visitor experience.*

*Software (webbing and accessory cords) that is left in place shall match the rock surface in color. The intent of this prohibition is to ensure that, to the extent possible, any webbing left at anchor points shall be camouflaged so as not to intrude visually upon scenic vistas.*

*Permanent anchor fixtures and hardware installed or used for the protection of climbers shall be brown in color, and only employed at established climbing routes which are currently used. The intent of this prohibition is to ensure that, to the extent possible, anchor and other permanent protection hardware will not accumulate in the park's backcountry. Such items will be camouflaged so as not to intrude visually upon scenic vistas.*

*Altering the natural surface to gain footholds through means of applying foreign materials, or through the removal of natural plant and soil materials, is not permitted. The intent of these prohibitions is to discourage the permanent placement of pre-manufactured holds or the creation of fresh rock scars whose presence would degrade the natural scene, and to prevent the destruction of micro-environment that may harbor or support sensitive and unique life forms or communities.*

## Section 1.6: PERMITS

(f) The following is a compilation of those activities for which a permit shall be maintained by the superintendent and be available to the public upon request. The following activities require permits:

- 2.1 Preservation of Natural, Cultural and Archaeological Resources
- 2.2 Wildlife Protection
- 2.5 (a) Research Specimens
- 2.10(a) Camping and Food Storage
- 2.11 Picnicking
- 2.17 Aircraft and Air Delivery
- 2.22 Unattended Property
- 2.23 Recreation Fees (Academic Fee Waivers, 71.13)
- 2.37 Noncommercial Soliciting
- 2.38 Explosives
- 2.50(a) Special Events
- 2.51(a) Public Assemblies, Meetings
- 2.52(a) Sale/Distribution of Printed Material
- 2.61 Residing on Federal Lands
- 2.62 Memorialization

- 4.30 Bicycles
- 5.3 Business Operations
- 5.5 Commercial Photography
- 5.7 Construction of Buildings or other Facilities

## **Section 2.1: PRESERVATION OF NATURAL, CULTURAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

(C)(1)(I) The gathering of pinyon nuts may be gathered for personal consumption with a limit of one quart per day per person.

**Determination:** *This is designated as pinyon nuts are abundant in the monument and gathering small amounts for personal consumption will not adversely affect the resource. Sales of pinyon nuts gathered in the monument is prohibited, both on-site and off.*

## **Section 2.2: WILDLIFE PROTECTION**

(d) Wildlife legally taken outside the park in accordance with Colorado hunting laws and regulations, and properly tagged and identified, may be transported non-stop using only the east hill from DS Road to the East Entrance or through the west from 16.5 Road to West Entrance. Only allowance for stopping at designated pullouts, road shoulders, or parking lots is in case of emergencies. No travel is allowed between DS Road and 16.5 Road.

Hunters who travel on the west side of the monument between 16.5 Road and West Entrance are required to pay appropriate recreational fees.

Hunters must show their hunting license, carcass tag and driver's license when contacted by park rangers to verify wildlife was taken legally. It is recommended to cover the carcass with a tarp.

(e) Spotting or viewing wildlife with an artificial light is prohibited throughout the monument. This restriction is intended to protect the wildlife from undue disturbances and to discourage the creation of conditions or situations conducive to poaching.

Hunters must contact the monument immediately if they wound an animal legally outside monument boundary and it enters the monument.

**Determination:** *Wildlife transported through the monument is subject to proper verification. This will ensure wildlife is lawfully taken in public areas outside the monument.*

*The using of artificial light is intended to protect the wildlife from undue disturbance and to discourage the creation of conditions or situations conducive to poaching.*

## **Section 2.10: CAMPING AND FOOD STORAGE**

(a) With the exception of backcountry camping as defined below, all camping at Colorado National Monument will be limited to the Saddlehorn campground, and the following rules apply:

- In any calendar year, campers are limited to fourteen overnight stays, whether occurring consecutively or in any combination of separate visits.



- Unless designated as a group site, up to seven people, three tents, and two vehicles may occupy any given site at one time.
- Camping will be limited to numbered sites in opened camp loops only. Sleeping and food preparation must be conducted within 50' feet of the site's picnic table and grill.
- All motor vehicles, including motorcycles, and bicycles, must be parked on the paved or designated parking at each site, and must not extend into the roadway.
- Reservations for selected sites may be made through recreation.gov. All other sites not on the reservation system are subject to a first-come occupancy basis.
- Charcoal fires only are permitted in the provided camp grills. Gas or alcohol camp stoves are also allowed. Wood fires are strictly forbidden; this includes wood acquired from outside the monument. Use of fire pit at amphitheater is exclusive use of the National Park Service.
- The use of generators is prohibited from 8 pm to 8 am and prohibited in Loop C at all times.
- Pets are allowed at campsites, but must be leashed and well-behaved at all times. Campers should never leave their pets unattended.
- An accessible campsite is available and is reserved for the use of mobility-impaired persons only.
- Proper registration is required for all occupied sites immediately upon occupancy and recreational entrance fees required for all vehicles. Check-out or re-registration is required by 11:00 am for all sites.

**Determination:** *The overnight occupancy is restricted to seven people in numbered developed sites in loops of the Saddlehorn Campground. This restriction is intended to prevent overcrowding at the Saddlehorn facility when all designated sites are already occupied, to ensure compliance with fee regulations, and to discourage camping and its attendant impacts at interpretive pullouts, scenic overlooks, picnic area and Visitor Center parking lots, entrance stations, maintenance yards, along roadways and at other areas where such occupancy could cause resource damage, overwhelm sanitary facilities or fixtures, threaten the public safety, obstruct traffic, interfere with management functions, or conflict with approved patterns of public use.*

*One or more paved loops within the Saddlehorn Campground may be closed to public entry and occupancy to permit the restoration of vegetation impacted by heavy use, to consolidate the maintenance workload that otherwise affects operational efficiencies, or for other management purposes. Vehicular access to closed loops will be prevented by locked cable-gates bearing "closed" signs. As deemed necessary, casual pedestrian access may also be discouraged by the posting of additional signs along perimeters of closed areas.*

*In any calendar year, campers are limited to fourteen overnight stays, whether accrued consecutively or in any combination of separate visits. This limitation is imposed to discourage persons from establishing quasi-residence on monument lands and to ensure that all visitors enjoy fair and equitable access to, and the use of, developed camping sites.*

### **Backcountry camping**

Backcountry camping is allowed through the monument's undeveloped regions. Backcountry

camping is defined as any primitive camp site located 1/4 mile or more from any road, developed facility or any trail and 100 feet or more from any water source. As a general rule, backcountry campers should seek a sufficiently remote location where they can neither be seen nor heard.

The following rules apply to backcountry camping:

- Campers must obtain a free backcountry permit, either in person or by telephone, prior to camping. Maximum group size is 7 people.
- In any calendar year, backcountry campers are limited to fourteen overnight stays, whether accrued consecutively or in any combination of separate visits. Single trips are limited to 7 consecutive nights.
- No fires, with exception of gas or alcohol camp stoves, are permitted in the monument's backcountry. Charcoal fires are not permitted.
- Pets, bicycles, motorized equipment, and other intrusive devices such as radios, generators, etc., are not allowed in the backcountry.
- Camping is not permitted in any stream-bed.
- All items, including trash, must be packed out. Campsites should be left in the natural condition in which they were found.
- Camping on Independence Monument is prohibited.
- No camping on cryptogamic soil crusts.
- For human waste disposal, dig 6-8 inch deep hole 300 feet from water source and bury. Pack out all toilet paper.

***Determination:*** Sites within one-fourth mile of any roadway, trail, or developed area, or in any stream-bed are closed to backcountry camping. The purpose of these closures is to maintain the integrity of roadside vistas and facilities developed for special uses, to disperse backcountry use beyond the confines of narrow roadway or trail corridors, to promote camper privacy and reduce the potential for conflicts between backcountry and other visitors, to prevent non-compliance in designated fee camping areas, to protect resource values and to discourage camping in areas subject to flash flooding. Advance registration for backcountry camping is required.

## **Section 2.11: PICNICKING**

Picnicking by the public is prohibited in the Saddlehorn Campground, in the amphitheater, in comfort stations, in the Visitor Center, in maintenance areas, Stone House area and in staff residential or office areas.

School or other groups with ranger presence or special use permit are authorized to picnic in the above areas.

***Determination:*** These prohibitions are intended to prevent conflicts arising from the use or occupancy in designed fee area campsites by non-paying day-use visitors, to discourage the preparation or consumption of food in public buildings or areas devoted to special management functions, and to ensure the reasonable rights-of-privacy of employees whose duties require that



*they reside in the monument.*

### **Section 2.13: FIRES**

(a)(1) Only charcoal fires are permitted in the grills provided in the Saddlehorn complex and at the Devils Kitchen Picnic Area (except for properly shielded gas or liquid-fueled portable camp stoves). No other fires are permitted in any developed or backcountry areas. At the direction of the park Superintendent, this ban may also be extended to all areas within the monument. Public notification of such circumstances will be communicated through posted signs at entrance locations, and through public announcements and press releases.

**Determination:** *The use of only charcoal, portable gas and liquid-fuel camp stoves is intended to discourage the cutting, gathering, or burning of natural vegetation as fuel-wood, to reduce the potential for human-caused wildfires, and to lessen the risk of contamination of prehistoric hearth deposits at archeological sites.*

### **Section 2.15: PETS**

(a)(1) Pets are allowed provided that visitors abide by the following regulations or restrictions:

- Dogs, cats and other pets (excluding service animals accompanying persons with disabilities) are not permitted on any trail or in any backcountry area, even if the animals are physically restrained. Backcountry is defined as more than 100 feet off a road surface, trailhead or developed area.
- Dogs, cats and other pets (excluding service animals accompanying persons with disabilities) are not permitted in any structure, building, and facility or on closed sections of Rim Rock Drive.

(5) Pet excrement must be removed and disposed of in waste receptacles.

(e) National Park Service permanent personnel living in residence #11 are permitted to possess house pets, dogs or cats. Occupants may keep a maximum of 2 pets. For small animals such as, but not limited to, small birds, hamsters, fish, etc., which are confined within indoor cages and/or aquariums, there are no limits.

**Determination:** *These prohibitions are intended to prevent the inadvertent harassment or injury to wildlife, to protect individuals from the aggressive behavior of other visitors' pets and to shield the pets themselves from injury or loss. Pets in confined buildings or crowded special events present additional concerns for visitor safety, sanitary health, pet welfare, and other nuisances or inconveniences to visitors and staff.*

*The purpose of leash restrictions is to ensure safe and sanitary paths of access to all public buildings and facilities, to protect individuals from the aggressive behavior of other visitors' pets and to shield the pets themselves from traffic-related or environmental injury.*

*It is strictly forbidden to abandon or release any pet or other animal into the Colorado National Monument.*

### **Section 2.16: HORSES AND PACK ANIMALS**

(b) The use of horses and pack animals (mules, llamas and burros) within Colorado National Monument is limited to the following areas:

- Lower Monument Canyon Trail to the base of the canyon wall ascent.
- Upper Liberty Cap Trail on the Monument Mesa.
- All monument land below the Precambrian bench which runs parallel to South Broadway from the White Rocks to South Camp Road.
- Black Ridge Trail from the upper Liberty Cap Trail parking lot to the park boundary with BLM. (Horses and pack animals which are considered mules, llamas, and burros are allowed on Rim Rock Drive for accessing the trail at this location only).
- Old Gordon's Trail.
- Goats, dogs and other animals are not considered pack animals.

(g) Recreational use of horses and pack animals will abide by the following rules:

- Use of horses on all trails listed above will be permitted when trail conditions are dry.
- Cross-country use above the Precambrian bench is prohibited in order to reduce adverse impacts from grazing, soil and vegetation disturbances from hooves, and introduction of exotic plants through animal wastes.
- Animals will not be allowed within the confines of any recognizable or otherwise identified archeological or historic site (excluding historic trails listed above).
- Horses and pack animals will not be tied or tethered in a manner which damages vegetation or which allows grazing on vegetation in the monument.
- Inappropriate use of horse and pack animals, or use under conditions that pose an unnecessary risk or danger to these animals, is not permitted.
- Horse and pack animals will be limited to no more than six in number for any group.
- Animal manure deposited at trailheads and parking areas must be immediately removed by the responsible animal owner.
- As a courtesy, and for safety, animals will maintain a slow walk when approaching visitors on foot, or other riders.
- Horses are prohibited in the Saddlehorn Campground, even if in trailer with registered campers.
- Horses and pack animals are not allowed overnight in the backcountry.

**Determination:** *The traditional uses of horses and pack animals at Colorado National Monument has historically been limited to relatively infrequent occasions and in small numbers. These were mainly due to the activities of early settlers to the area, and the monument's celebrated first caretaker, John Otto.*

*As the area surrounding the monument continues to face accelerated urban growth, greater protective efforts must be afforded to resources and visitors as this and other backcountry recreational activities continues to grow. The increased use of horse and pack animals in the monument raises several concerns relevant to safety, trail maintenance, and resource protection. The size and weight of horses on narrow and often steep trails that are now being utilized by more pedestrian traffic, present greater likelihood of inconvenient and unsafe encounters with hikers, joggers, and school groups, among others. Excrement from horses on trails is often an unsightly inconvenience to some, and may pose sanitary problem at times. The risk of bumping pedestrians or other injury also exists, as does the risk of falling injuries due to deterioration of the trail base that these heavy animals cause. Greater wear and tear on the trails, especially historic trail sections, present elevated problems in maintenance of these limited cultural resources.*

*The National Park Service is mandated to maintain natural ecosystems, and as such, much of the monument's backcountry is designated as "recommended wilderness." This is often compromised with the spread of exotic plant species when seeds are deposited through the animals' feces. Animal owners are asked to cooperate and employ the use of weed free hay or pellet feed, use animal diapers, or clean up after their animals. As with other grazing animals, horses often indiscriminately feed on native vegetation. It is also unknown how these animals affect the behavioral patterns of natural predators or other wildlife.*

*With increased recreational riding comes a growing number of novice riders, and greater likelihood of accidental injuries to rider, pedestrian, and animal. The present monument staff and finances are inadequate to either respond to these injury accidents or to meet the increased liability associated with a backlogged trail maintenance work load.*

## **Section 2.19: WINTER ACTIVITIES**

- (a) Winter activities including cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, sledding and similar activities are prohibited on Rim Rock Drive when closed during active snow removal operations. This also includes running, hiking or similar activities on closed roads.

**Determination:** *It is unsafe for park visitors to recreate on Rim Rock Drive when it is closed for snow removal operations. If no operations are being conducted and the roadway is closed, recreational activities may occur.*

## **Section 2.21: SMOKING**

- (a) The following regulations will apply to smoking within the boundaries of Colorado National Monument:
  - Smoking is prohibited within all buildings and structures, and in any other area posted with "No Smoking" signs. This includes smoking in the oil house, chlorinator room, in lift stations, and within ten feet of any fuel island or fuel pump, and propane tank.
  - Smoking is also prohibited within any government-owned vehicles.
  - Except in enclosed personally-owned vehicles, smoking is prohibited throughout the monument during temporary conditions of extreme fire danger. Visitors and employees will be notified of these circumstances through the posting of large signs at the monument's west and east entrances.

- Smoking is prohibited within 25 feet from any building, structure or facility.

**Determination:** *The smoking restrictions are intended to promote a safe, healthy, and pleasant work environment for both employees and visitors. During dry periods when national weather standards define conditions as "Red Flag" in nature, existing extreme danger for wildland fires mandates that heightened fire preventative measures be taken.*

## **Section 2.22: PROPERTY**

(a)(2) Vehicles or other personal property may be left unattended overnight in the monument in conjunction with use of a valid National Park Service backcountry camping permit. Such vehicles and property must be removed from the monument prior to expiration of the permit. Vehicles must be described at the time the backcountry permit is obtained. The National Park Service will not be held responsible for loss of property due to theft or accident.

**Determination:** *Persons camping in the monument may need to leave a vehicle or other property at a trailhead, parking area, or similar location for longer than 24 hours. This order is required to authorize such activities.*

## **Section 2.35: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

(a) Alcoholic beverages are allowed in the Saddlehorn Campground, Devils Kitchen Picnic Area, within the private residences of individuals occupying quarters at Colorado National Monument, lower trailheads including Lower Monument and Wildwood, all other areas not specifically listed in section (3)(i) below and during special events or occasions granted by the superintendent.

(3)(i) The consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited along the Rim Rock Drive corridor. This includes all pull-outs and areas within 100 feet of a developed trail, road, trailhead or structure from the east entrance to the west entrance.

**Determination:** *Alcohol-related incidents are the single greatest cause of crime, accidents, and litter at Colorado National Monument. Alcohol intoxicated individuals are the single most common cause of vehicle accidents, falling fatalities, and other death or injury, and in general, are an overall menace and nuisance to both legitimate visitors and staff at the monument. The incidents related to alcohol and drug use, especially by young people, has steadily increased over the years as the surrounding area has grown in size. The additional work load has drained employees of much valuable time spent in investigating accidents, making arrests and associated court appearances, responding to citizen complaints, repairing or replacing property, cleaning up litter, and restoring damaged landscapes and historic resources.*

*An alcohol prohibition throughout most of the monument will discourage irresponsible drinking behaviors, especially among young people, while still allowing for responsible visitors to use alcohol beverages in the appropriate places, and during appropriate times.*

## **Section 2.50: SPECIAL EVENTS**

(a) Special events, including weddings and group gatherings require a special use permit. Although the special use permit allows the event to occur, the permit does not prohibit public access to the event or event location. A permit will be denied if it unreasonably interferes with ongoing NPS park programming, presents a clear and present danger to public health

and safety, negatively prevents or limits access for visitors or causes injury or damage to park resources. There must be a meaningful association between the event and the monument which contributes to visitor understanding of the park significance.

- Weddings are allowed in the following designated areas: Bookcliffs View, Bookcliffs Shelter, Devils Kitchen Picnic Area, Saddlehorn Amphitheater, Saddlehorn Picnic Area and Saddlehorn Parking Lot.
- Easter Sunrise Services and other group gatherings with large attendance are permitted for Devils Kitchen Picnic Area, Saddlehorn Amphitheater, Saddlehorn Picnic Area and Saddlehorn Parking Lot. Permits will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Occupancy limits for special events have been established to be 25 people for Bookcliffs View and 15 people for Bookcliffs Shelter. Devils Kitchen Picnic Area, Saddlehorn Amphitheater, Saddlehorn Picnic Area and Saddlehorn Parking Lot may have capacity limits in excess of 100 people, but will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.
- Special use permit applications can be submitted within 365 days (or one calendar year) in advance of the event.
- Large events which impact monument staff and are conducted on or along Rim Rock Drive, will be limited to one (1) per month.
- Special use permits will be reviewed and approved in the order they are received. The timeframe for decisions on such permits will range from 10 business days to four weeks or longer for complex requests.
- Special use requests for recurring events will be evaluated separately and are not guaranteed for approval.

***Determination:*** *These special events provide a benefit for one group of people and not necessarily for all visitors to Colorado National Monument. In establishing designated areas and occupancy limits, these events will attempt to create minimal impact to park visitors, provide a safe environment and protect park resources.*

#### **Section 2.51: PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES, MEETINGS**

(e) The following areas, also designated on Attachment 1 are open to public assemblies, meetings, gatherings, or demonstrations by groups involving 25 or fewer persons without a permit. Demonstrations involving twenty-six or more individuals must have a permit issued by the Superintendent, through the Chief Park Ranger.

- Visitor Center sidewalk from the disabled parking area to the flagpole.
- Dirt parking area near the East Entrance Station.

Permit requests may be made for all other areas of the monument. Requests are subject to denial based on consideration from the superintendent on a case-by-case basis.

***Determination:*** *These areas provide for First Amendment activities that are visible to the public while allowing for other visitor activities to proceed without disruption.*

## Section 2.52: SALE OR DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATTER

(e) The following areas, also designated on Attachment 1 are open to sale and distribution of printed material by groups involving 25 or fewer persons without a permit. Printed matter is limited to message-bearing textual printed material such as books, pamphlets, magazines, and leaflets, provided that it is not solely commercial advertising. Distribution involving twenty-six or more individuals must have a permit issued by the superintendent.

- Visitor Center sidewalk from the disabled parking area to the flagpole.
- Dirt parking area near the East Entrance Station.
- A Special Use Permit is required for groups larger than 25.

Other areas of the monument are potentially available for sale or distribution of printed matter. The superintendent will consider requests for permits on a case-by-case basis.

**Determination:** *These areas provide for First Amendment activities that are visible to the public while allowing for other visitor activities to proceed without disruption.*

## Section 2.62: MEMORIALIZATION

All undeveloped areas are open to the scattering of human ashes from cremation, pursuant to conditions of a special use permit issued by the superintendent, with the exception of archeological sites and standing pools of water.

Human ashes may not be scattered in any pools of water, potholes, or side streams and creeks.

## Section 4.11: LOAD, WEIGHT, AND SIZE LIMITS

- (a) The transportation of hay through the monument will be allowed under the following conditions:
- 1) All vehicles transporting hay will be in compliance with state and local laws. This includes vehicles and trailer height and weight restrictions. The monument recommends vehicles transporting hay have covered loads to limit the spread of exotic and/or non-native species and reduce the chance of spilling the load. **Transporting of hay is restricted to the east hill.**
  - 2) Any hay spilled on the roadway will be immediately reported to the monument. Under no circumstances should the party responsible for the spill leave the scene of the accident if in any way it presents a safety hazard to others. Individuals responsible for the hay spill are required to immediately remove all hay from the monument.

For the use of this regulation, hay is defined as any vegetation or plant material not native or grown from within the monument's boundaries.

**Determination:** *While transporting hay through the monument may in itself seem harmless enough, it has generally been established that hay bales, including those labeled "weed free," contain certain amounts of exotic or noxious weed seeds. When released into the monument, these unwanted species can potentially establish themselves and spread. The National Park Service and Colorado National Monument are mandated by policy to prevent the establishment of these exotic plant species on National Park lands.*



*The staff at the monument is also bound by law to enforce state and local traffic laws which include regulations on height, weight, and size limits of vehicles using public roadways. Improperly loaded hay on vehicles can pose a serious safety hazard. As most of these vehicles are traveling to and from the Glade Park community, it is desirable that for the safety and convenience of others, all such loaded traffic will use the public right-of-way as stipulated in 1986 Wilkinson v. Dept of Interior for the east hill.*

#### **Section 4.22: UNSAFE OPERATION**

(b)(1) Motor vehicles shall display headlights at all times while in tunnels.

**Determination:** *This requirement is intended to ensure that motorists have sufficient illumination in the tunnels, even during daylight hours, to discern impending hazards or obstruction in the roadway, to render reflective centerline and edge-of-pavement delineators more visible and to help alert others in and approaching the tunnel of their approach or presence.*

#### **Section 4.30: BICYCLES**

(a) All backcountry off-road areas, trails, and unpaved service roads are closed to bicycles. The use of bicycles on walkways, other pedestrian paths, and all other areas normally closed to traffic, is prohibited.

(2) When operating a bicycle in a tunnel, periods of low visibility or between sunset and sunrise, bicyclists must use a white light that is visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and a red light that is visible from at least 200 feet from the rear.

(3) Operating a bicycle abreast of another except where authorized by the superintendent is prohibited.

(4) Operating a bicycle while consuming an alcoholic beverage or carrying in hand an open container of alcoholic beverage is prohibited.

**Determination:** *Bicycles banned on trails, in backcountry areas, or any off-road area or pedestrian thoroughfare, acknowledges the special status of areas proposed for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This ban is also intended to prevent damage to trail surfaces, to protect natural and cultural resource values, to discourage off-road vehicle use and to prevent conflicts with approved patterns of public use.*

*The monument has three unlighted tunnels that range from 182' to 530'. The visibility in the tunnels is poor and numerous near accidents have occurred over the years between motorists and bicyclists.*

## Attachment 1

### COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT Public Assembly Areas



Visitor Center Side Walk



East Entrance Staging Area